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Ex-Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly, LL.D.

BORN OCTOBER 31, 1815. DIED SEPTEMBER 19, 1899.

Judge Daly was a native of New York City. His father, who was a master carpenter, died while the boy was at school. Thrown in this way upon his own resources, he went to Savannah, Georgia, and obtained employment in a counting house; but the work was not congenial, and he shipped as a sailor. After three years at sea, he returned to New York and apprenticed himself to learn a trade, working hard all day and spending his nights in study.

Becoming a member of a literary society, his ability attracted the attention of William Soule, a lawyer, who offered to send him to Union College. Young Daly was too independent to accept this offer, and, upon the death of the man to whom he was apprenticed, he insisted on completing his time. After that he entered Mr. Soule's office. When he had studied law three and a half years he showed such proficiency that Chief Justice Nelson relaxed the rule requiring seven years study and admitted him to practice in 1839.

He formed a partnership with Thomas McElrath, and in 1843 was elected to the Legislature. The following year he was made Judge of the Court of Common Pleas by Governor Bouck, on the recommendation of ex-Governor Marcy. Hé took his seat on the bench May 4, 1844, and served continuously until December 31, 1885, the longest judicial record in this State. He held his position for the first two years by appointment, but when the office of judge was made elective by the Constitution of 1846 he was elected for a term of six years, and was constantly re-elected until retired by the limitation of age. He became Chief Justice of the Court in 1871.

In 1860 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by

Columbia College, and in 1867 he was elected a member of the New York State Constitutional Convention.

Judge Daly became a Fellow of the American Geographical Society in 1855, and he was from the first one of its most active workers. He was chosen President in 1864, and remained in office thirty-five years, devoting himself with unwearied assiduity to every measure for the advancement of the Society, and supervising, with especial interest, the growth and development of its library. Besides his annual addresses on the geographical work of the world, he made many contributions to the Bulletin, all marked by wide and accurate reading and by philosophic breadth of view. The habit of study, formed in early years, was kept up throughout his long life guided by a taste that led him instinctively to the best literature. Every man of culture honored with his friendship has felt what Alexander von Humboldt wrote of him to Chevalier Bunsen, in 1851:

"Few men have left upon me such an impression of high intelligence on subjects of universal interest and in the judgment of apparently opposite directions of character among the nations that inhabit the ever-narrowing Atlantic basin. Add to this, what is very uncommon in an American, and still more uncommon in the practical life of a greatly occupied magistrate, that this man of high character and intellect is not wanting in a lively interest for the fine arts and even for poetry."

He was an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Geographical Society, of the Italian Geographical Society, of the Berlin Geographical Society, of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, of the Geographical Society of Madrid, and a member of other learned bodies, American and foreign.

Judge Daly married in 1856 Maria Lydig, the daughter of an old New York family, and his home life was for nearly forty years one of unclouded happiness. Mrs. Daly died in 1894.

RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council of the American Geographical Society held on Wednesday afternoon, September 20, 1899, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the death of Charles P. Daly, for more than thirty-five

years its beloved and honored President, the American Geographical Society has sustained a loss not to be adequately set forth in words while the sense of bereavement presses upon every heart.

Judge Daly became a Fellow of the Society in the first years of its struggle for existence, and was one of the earnest and devoted workers who gave freely of their time and means to bear it successfully through the long period of discouragement which set in with the Civil War. He lived, surviving most of his faithful early associates, to see the assured prosperity of the organization to which he had dedicated the resources of his erudition, his cultivated intelligence, his zeal for knowledge, and his untiring activity of thought and speech and pen. His efforts and his performance were seen and known of all men, and his name will be forever identified with the history of this oldest of American geographical societies.

With the Members of the Council, so long in closer and more intimate personal relation with Judge Daly, abides the memory of a character equally sweet and firm, a genial native courtesy, an appreciation of generous and lofty aims, a broad and wise humanity, and a life led simply to a beautiful close, unstained by the contact with the world.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Council, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of Judge Daly.